

REMARKS

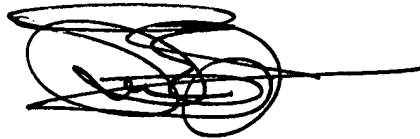
Claims 6-9, 11, and 13-18 are allowed. Applicants have canceled rejected Claims 1, 5, and 10 without prejudice to applicants' rights to file a continuation application directed thereto. This case should therefore be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reexamine the application, to reconsider and withdraw the rejections, and to promptly allow the case and to pass it to issue.

If the Examiner has any further questions with regard to this matter, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

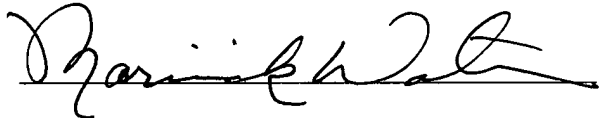


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: December 9, 2003

LEJ:pbe/mmw



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